

Looking Back and Looking Ahead

The Role of Knowledge and Wisdom in Modern Society

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At the time of this writing, we are nearing the end of the year, 2022; I am 71 years old, more than qualified to be called an “Old Man.” When I was a child and later as a young adult, “Old Folks” like me, were generally considered knowledgeable, and therefore wiser than their younger counterparts in society. I personally never questioned that; when I was younger, I always respected my elders, and when I needed advice, I usually consulted someone older, someone I considered wiser. What is wisdom? Some of the definitions of Wisdom are as follows: *1. Good Sense, 2. the ability to make sensible decisions, and 3. judgments based on personal knowledge and experience.* (Encarta Dictionary) There are two very important words in this definition, **Knowledge, and Experience.** There are many ways to gain knowledge, but when you think about it, there is only one way to gain experience. To clarify this, here is the definition of **Experience:** Again this is from (Encarta Dictionary) Experience: *1. Involvement in something over time, active involvement in an activity or exposure to events or people over a period of time that leads to an increase in knowledge or skill.* Therefore, experience requires time; hence, the older we get, the more experiences we have. This also increases our overall knowledge; and ultimately our understanding, which we then refer to as, “Wisdom;” the opposite of wisdom is stupidity, and / or ignorance. With wisdom, we eventually develop “Discernment” which acts as the ultimate guide for the choices we make. As I have already mentioned, there are many ways to obtain knowledge, however, how do we know if the knowledge we obtain is true or false? We live in what is often called the “Age of Information.” Using the Internet, anyone can access virtual reams of information in seconds that would have taken weeks, months, perhaps years to compile less than 50 years ago! So how do we sort the good or true information from the bad or false information? Should we rely on others to do this for us, or is this really our responsibility? After all, from others we may be getting a “Biased Opinion,” or perhaps even a “Naïve or uninformed Opinion,” as we usually do not really know where the knowledge of others comes from in most cases.

The Test of Time

I recall hearing someone make the statement recently that, “Today’s children are smarter than their parents!” I do not remember who made the statement or what prompted the statement, but I do know this... it is simply not true! Young people may have access to more knowledge than a person of my age, or their parents may have had in the past, but that does not make them smarter, simply more accessible to information. Remember, in the educational system there are “A & B Students” but there are also C, D, and F students! Therefore, the amount of information available is by no means a reflection of experience or wisdom attained, whether referring to individuals, or society as a whole. For example, there still exists tribes of people in the world living the life of “cave dwellers.” Some of these people live without any modern conveniences, some even naked, merely surviving day to day with only basic knowledge, living more by instinct than knowledge! Some of these people have knowledge more comparable to that of a Kindergartener, but they may have lots and lots of wisdom attained through experience! How long do you suppose the average modern college student with virtually limitless access to information would survive in the jungle? Do you remember the movie, “Castaway?” The survivor in Castaway knew he could start a fire using friction, but it was by accident that he actually got a fire going! He had limited knowledge, but no experience or wisdom as to how to start a fire in that manner. His hands were rubbed raw and bleeding when the base of his fire starting rig accidentally, or by divine intervention, cracked, allowing the air to ignite the ember produced by the process! The wounds he acquired on his hands trying to start that fire could have killed him had they become septic. What this illustrates is that sometimes, incomplete knowledge combined with lack of experience (or wisdom) can even be dangerous, perhaps life threatening! Knowledge containing false information can be even more dangerous as it is more often than not, used to intentionally lead someone towards a destructive path! Therefore, it is important that when sifting through information, it be taken seriously; and that all sources of information are taken into consideration, even when contradictory. What we are experiencing with the so-called “Cancel Culture” is a good example of the dangers of not personally vetting sources of information or limiting

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sources of information. It opens the door to propaganda and manipulation. It seems that most people have forgotten that contradictory views and debate stimulate deeper exploration of the facts, thereby making bias and manipulation of the facts less likely! Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's minister of propaganda knew this well when he proclaimed, "If you tell a lie long enough, it becomes truth." If there is no opposition to propaganda, it tends to be more readily accepted.

Because of this "Cancel Culture," over the past few years, the U.S.A. has never been more polarized than it currently is, *at least in my lifetime*, both politically and socially. One of the main disputes revolves around "biased or false information;" again, vetting sources of information should be a personal responsibility. It seems that there are more and more, representatives are being voted into political office with a "Socialistic mindset," hailed by many as being a "**good thing**," but is it really? Many people in Europe used to think so in my opinion, but truth be told, Europe was already leaning towards socialism, so that was to be expected. For many years, the Europeans have been pushing to erase borders and become "One Big Happy Family." They call themselves "The European Union." Nevertheless, how is that *really* working out for them? About 10 years ago, I spent a month in Germany; it was soon after what I call the "Muslim Invasion of Europe" began over there. People I interfaced with in Germany did not seem to be too thrilled about it; most of them wanted it to stop! A world without borders might seem like a good idea, but history teaches that it **does not work!** Why do you suppose that even back in ancient times all the cities were surrounded by walls? Even the most basic observer of Human Nature knows that if you have what someone else, wants, and they are too lazy to get their own, eventually they will try to take from you whatever you have that they want! The Bible calls this *coveting and stealing*, which are among the "Big Ten" sins listed therein. Additional problems surface when one culture fails to assimilate with another, especially when you add religious extremism to the mix. This is the main problem, taking place in Europe and on a smaller scale (for now) here in the America. European nations like America also have Christian roots, and most of the people coming into Europe are Muslim. Despite what some might tell you, Muslims do not tolerate other religions, especially Christianity, which has its roots in Judaism, this why Muslims have as much disdain for Christians as they have for Jews. A side note: A recent news headline stated that as of Nov 2022, Christianity is no longer the dominant religion in the United Kingdom!

Because of biased or manipulated information, consider what is happening in some North American cities as the Muslim population there continues to grow. Muslims are in the process of changing the culture of these places to conform to their beliefs, they are even trying to impose their laws (Sharia Law) which still includes flogging and death by stoning for simply drinking alcohol and other offences which most of us have been guilty of at some point in our past. Just last year in a predominately-Muslim North American city, they started broadcasting over loud speakers throughout the city the traditional Muslim call to prayer, five times a day! These same things are already taking place in France, Germany, and England. They are not doing this by force at this point but rather by attrition, or by overpopulating an area and taking control politically. After they gain control over an area, they then will use force to expand and retain control thereby eventually eliminating any dissenters. You can see this in recent history; Lebanon is a good example. If this is the life you want; you can always move to a Muslim country, for a "test drive," you are free to do so! I would advise caution however, you might find yourself under a death sentence for expressing yourself as you might in the United States for things you may now take for granted! If you choose to remain in the United States however, please do not attempt to impose your naive desires or beliefs on me. You can attempt to *convince* me to believe as you do and I am personally willing to listen and even debate with you, however, "*imposing*" your beliefs on me or anyone else is a whole different ball game; this why many people, myself included, feel that our borders should be even more secure than they were in years past. I have already stated that border walls are by no means a new concept, but young people all over the world are indeed being taught that borders are somehow a modern-day evil, and that there should be no borders. Again, they are convinced that border walls are a new concept, which is a blatant lie! Open borders is also the philosophy of many within the political arena here in the U.S.A. especially, "Left Leaning" young people whom also happen to be predominately Democrat; they are also predominately socialist or communist leaning in their political ideologies. These people have been trying to convince others to follow their philosophy for many years with limited success. They now

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grow impatient and they are now attempting to impose their beliefs on what they consider the “hold-outs” of capitalism, conservatism, and Christian values, which are in fact, the true essence of our great nation by canceling or silencing anyone with an opposing point of view. This new crop of leaders and activists continuously shout, “Tolerance,” while failing to tolerate any philosophy but their own. Any student of history can tell you that when this happens, it eventually evolves into some form of oppression and eventually violence in one form or another. This war has begun, and as other wars, it will eventually evolve into slavery or bloodshed at some point. It is ironic that the same people that advocate open borders in the name of “tolerance,” are usually the ones living in gated communities, with additional fences or walls around their own houses. Some even surround themselves with armed guards while insisting average citizens give up not only their means of self-defense, but their borders, and their security as well. The U.S.A. and its form of government have stood the test of time while the overwhelming majority of Socialistic and Communistic forms of government have failed time, and time again. Perhaps this is why there is a concerted effort to erase or alter history at all levels in our educational system!

What Does This All Mean?

The Bible has been around for a long time and has been the object and source of much debate; does the Bible talk about any of the things I have mentioned thus far? The short answer is, “Yes” all of it! As for the reason for the resiliency of the United States and its government, the fact is, the U.S. government is rooted in Biblical principles! There is an abundance of evidence supporting this... all one has to do is “seek... and they will find it!” The Bible addresses all the issues currently happening in America and the rest of the world. The bottom line is, *we have to bring society in general back into awareness of God and His Word, or we will all ultimately fail.* In the past, I have written many articles and lessons, relating to the Bible and the prophecies contained within it. Some of you may have thought that I am obsessed with the subject of prophesy and the “End Times,” but as I have stated many times, this is what gives the Bible its credibility! The Bible is the record of the beginning of man and everything we know on earth; the Bible is also the prophetic record of the end of man and everything we know on earth! Close to one third of the Bible contains prophesy... not too many people realize that... many Pastors and Churches do not know or teach that! Church leaders who refrain from teaching prophesy are in essence tearing a third of the pages out of the Bible. The fact that you are reading this indicates that the “End” is yet to come, but while God does not tell us the exact time the end will come, He gives us signs to look for that will show us when the end is about to take place. I will conclude this with some of those signs straight out of the Bible. Consider whether you see these signs happening today. Also, consider that Jesus told us that we will see an increase, and a convergence of signs as that time draws closer. Are You Ready? Read the Signs of the end in the passages below then watch the news sometime today.

2 Timothy 3:1-9 (KJV)

¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. ⁶ For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ⁷ Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. ⁹ But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all *men*, as theirs also was.

Over the years, I have heard many people say, “I wish I lived in Biblical times...” We are living in Biblical times!

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